Referring nouns in name-informing quotation:
A copula-based approach

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In India, a Big Mac is called a Maharajah Mac.

In India, a Big Mac is called “a Maharajah Mac”.

In India, a Big Mac is called “Maharajah Mac”.

The Maharaja Mac
Problem and proposal

Quotations demonstrating linguistic shapes usually do not contain an article

“Sofa” has four letters.
*A “sofa” has four letters.

Others, however, do

A couch is also referred as “sofa” / a “sofa”.
The phenomenon is called “sun halo” / a “sun halo”.

Proposal w.r.t. the latter type

- **Referential hybrids** between demonstrated and denotational content
- Involves **copular relation**: *A couch is a sofa*, *The phenomenon is a sun halo*
- Copula entails a **referring interpretation** of the quoted nominal
Roadmap

- Characteristics of name-informing quotation (NIQ) and the copula
- Two types of copulas and their synactic reflectors
- Empirical correlations in the use of articles, quotes and *also*
- A word on mixed and open quotation
Name-informing quotation informs about shapes of conventionalized names

*The purity of gold is referred to with the word “karat”.*

*Doctors call this disease “sepsis”.*

NIQ is an instance of pure quotation

Pure quotation: rule-like, metalinguistic, permits *the word*

*The word “karat” has two syllables.*

*The purity of gold is referred to with *the word* “karat”.*
*call* contains three thematic arguments

*Doctors call this disease “sepsis”.*

\[ x \text{ call } y \text{ “n”} \]

\[ \lambda y \lambda n \lambda x \text{ [CALL}(x, y, \text{NAME}(“n”, y))\text{]} \]

\[
[[ y ]] = [[ n ]] 
\]

*Doctors call this disease “sepsis” and this disease is a sepsis.*

*Doctors call this disease “sepsis” but this disease is not a sepsis.*
x call y “n”

\( \lambda P \lambda y \lambda n \lambda x [\text{CALL}(x, y, \text{NAME(“n”, y)} \land P(y, n))] \)

*Doctors call this disease “sepsis”.*

\( \rightarrow \) *This disease is a sepsis.*

*The phenomenon is called “sun halo”.*

\( \rightarrow \) *The phenomenon is a sun halo.*
Specificational copulas introduce a variable (Mikkelsen 2011, Higgins 1979)

\[ \approx \text{The } y \text{ (that is a } z \text{) is an } n \]

\( n = \text{value for that variable} \)

\[ x \text{ call } y \text{ “} n \text{”} \]

\[ \lambda P \lambda y \lambda n \lambda x \left[ \text{CALL}(x, y, \text{NAME(“} n \text{”, } y) \land P(y, n)) \right] \]

*The phenomenon is called “sun halo”.*

\[ \rightarrow \text{The phenomenon is a sun halo}. \]

\[ \lambda y \left[ \text{PHENOMENON}(y) \right] \text{ (a sun halo)} \]

\[ \exists s \left[ \text{PHENOMENON}(\text{SUN HALO}(s)) \right] \]
Postcopular nominals denote sorts (Hellen & Wolter 2008)

*That is a clicker.*

*That is a sun halo.*

Thus, the names’ shape in a NIQ is derived from the name of a sort / kind (cf. Krifka et al. 1995)
Subject in specificational sentences (Geist 2006, Mikkelsen 2005)

- predicative
- non-referential

Non-referential pronoun in left dislocation configurations

*Die Erscheinung, die ist ein Sonnenring. ('the phenomenon that is a sun halo')

*Die Erscheinung, die ist ein Sonnenring.

*Die Krankheit, die ist eine Sepsis. ('the disease that is a sepsis')

*Die Krankheit, die ist eine Sepsis.

Compare: Die Kette, die ist ein Erbstück. ('the necklace it is an heirloom')
Type 2: identity copula

The second type of NIQ does not allow left dislocation

* A couch is also referred to as a “sofa”.
  
  → *A couch is a sofa.*

?? *Eine Couch, das / die ist ein Sofa.* (‘a couch that / it is a sofa’)

Compare:

?? *Der Morgenstern, das ist der Abendstern.* (‘the morning star that is the evening star’)

?? *Superman, das ist Clark Kent.* (‘superman that is clark kent’)

Type 2: identity copula

A couch is also referred to as a “sofa”.

→ A couch is a sofa.

Identity copula: The reference of the pre- and the post-copular nominal are the same (Higgings 1979)

\[ \lambda n \lambda y \ [y = n] \ (a \ couch) \ (a \ sofa) \]

\[ \exists s \ \exists c \ [\text{COUCH}(c) = \text{SOFA}(s)] \]
∃s ∃c [COUCH(c) = SOFA(s)]

Lexical reflector: also

Additive meaning (Szwedek 1991): A name for y exists which belongs to the set of names used for y

Puts the name’s shape in focus and not its denotation

A couch is also called “sofa”.

A couch is also a sofa.

Obligatory with identity NIQ, optional with specificational NIQ

A couch is ??(also) referred to as a “sofa”. (identity)

The phenomenon is (also) called a “sun halo”. (specificational)

Henceforth, the embryo is referred to as a “fetus”. (specificational !)
Quotes

Graphemic device: an expression is mentioned and not used with its standard denotation

“Sofa” has four letters.

“Sofa,” Max whispered.

The so-called “sofa” turned out to be an old, smelly futon.

A “sofa” is a piece of furniture for two or more people to sit on.

Objective

Does the use of an article in a NIQ correlate with the use of quotes?

Does the use of *auch* (‘also’) correlate with the use of quotes?
German data (DeReKo): Sentences containing the verbs *nennen* (‘call’) and *bezeichnen* (‘refer to’), each N = 500

- More quotes with nominals containing an article
- Reflector of a strategy to highlight the name’s metalinguistic use
German data (DeReKo): Sentences containing the verbs *nennen* (‘call’) and *bezeichnen* (‘refer to’), each N = 500

- Reduced need to signal the name’s metalinguistic use in the scope of *auch*?
German data (DeReKo): Sentences containing the verbs *nennen* ('call') and *bezeichnen* ('refer to'), each $N = 500$

![Bar chart showing the use of quotes in sentences with and without 'auch']

Quotational *bezeichnen*  
(N = 163)
German data (DeReKo): Sentences with nennt (‘call’) involving or not auch (‘also’), each N = 500

Construction: *Man nennt X (auch) N* (‘one calls X (also) N’)

![Graph showing the use of quotes and ‘auch’](image)

Quotational *nennt* (N = 1000)

$p < 0.17$
German data (DeReKo): Sentences with *nennen* (‘call’) involving or not *auch* (‘also’), each N = 500

Construction: *Man nennt X (auch) N* (‘one calls X (also) N’)

Quotational *nennen* (N = 1000)
More quotes with NIQ involving an article

Reflector of a strategy to highlight the name’s metalinguistic use in NIQ with article

*auch* is not a predictor for the use of quotes
The phenomenon is called a “sun halo”.

Isn’t this open quotation à la Recanati (2001, 2008)?

A “fortnight” is a period of fourteen days. (= open quotation)

“Fortnight” is an unfamiliar word. (= closed / pure quotation)

No, it’s not.

► Assertions with open quotations are not about words

► With open quotation, the demonstration results from the quotes alone and their meaning is implicated pragmatically

► With NIQ, the demonstration of the name is entailed compositionally by the predicate
The phenomenon is called a “sun halo”.

Isn’t this mixed quotation (Cappelen & Lepore 1997, Maier 2007) 
The manager praised the agency’s “stunning” work.

Well, maybe, but …

► Mixed quotation usually in combinations of direct and indirect speech reports

► Omitting the quotes makes mixed quotation no quotation – this is different with NIQ

On the other hand …

► The name in NIQ (w/ article) is indeed demonstrated and used denotationally at the same time
Conclusion

- Name-informing quotation is pure quotation
- Name-informing predicates introduce copular relation
- Two copula types: Specificational and identity
- Article in NIQ correlates with the use of quotes
- Open question: Is NIQ w/ article an instance of mixed quotation?

Thank you.


